

Remarks

The foregoing amendment amends claims 1 and 11 and cancels claims 17-20. Pending in the application are claims 1-16, of which claims 1 and 11 are independent. The following comments address all stated grounds for rejection and place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance.

Patentable Subject Matter and Claim Amendments

Claims 18 and 20 are indicated to recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In the foregoing claim amendments, Applicant amends claims 1 and 11 to incorporate the limitations of claims 18 and 20 including the limitations of intervening claims 17 and 19, respectively. No new matter is added. In light of the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, Applicant amends claims 1 and 11 to address the issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action. In light of the foregoing claim amendments, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and pass the claims to allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1-17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-265725 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,366,820. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

In the foregoing claim amendments, independent claims 1 and 11 are amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 18 and 20, which are indicated to recite patentable subject

matter, including the limitations of intervening claims 17 and 19, respectively. In light of the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-17 and 19 is moot. Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and pass the claims to allowance.

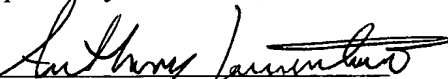
Conclusion

For these reasons, Applicant contends that claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the Applicant's attorney at (617) 227-7400.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. OCW-002 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Anthony A. Laurentano
Registration No. 38,220
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP
28 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(617) 227-7400
(617) 742-4214 (Fax)
Attorney/Agent For Applicant